



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Two Westover Residents Named in Drug Indictment

CLARKSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA — Two Westover, West Virginia, residents were named in an Indictment returned on May 6, 2008, by a Federal Grand Jury sitting in Clarksburg, West Virginia.

United States Attorney Sharon L. Potter announced that EDWARD LEE CORNEY, age 20, and WILLIAM JEFFERSON, also known as BJ, age 19, were named in a 10-count Indictment. Count One of the Indictment alleges that CORNEY and JEFFERSON conspired to distribute cocaine hydrochloride, also known as “coke;” cocaine base, also known as “crack;” and heroin from the Summer of 2007 until the return of this Indictment within the Northern District of West Virginia and elsewhere.

CORNEY was named in eight additional counts of the Indictment. Counts Two, Three, Four, Six, and Eight of the Indictment allege that CORNEY distributed cocaine hydrochloride, also known as “coke,” on September 11, 2007; on October 18, 2007; on November 12, 2007; on February 15, 2008; and on March 19, 2008, in Monongalia County. Count Five of the Indictment alleges that CORNEY distributed cocaine base, also known as “crack” and cocaine hydrochloride, also known as “coke,” on November 13, 2007, in Monongalia County. Counts Seven and Nine of the Indictment allege that CORNEY distributed cocaine hydrochloride, also known as “coke,” and heroin on March 17, 2008, and March 21, 2008, in Monongalia County.

JEFFERSON was named in five additional counts of the Indictment. Count Five of the Indictment alleges that JEFFERSON distributed cocaine base, also known as “crack” and cocaine hydrochloride, also known as “coke,” on November 13, 2007, in Monongalia County. Count Eight of the Indictment alleges that JEFFERSON distributed cocaine hydrochloride, also known as “coke,” on March 19, 2008, in Monongalia County. Counts Seven and Nine of the Indictment allege that JEFFERSON distributed cocaine hydrochloride, also known as “coke,” and heroin on March 17, 2008, and on March 21, 2008, in Monongalia County. Count Ten of the Indictment alleges that JEFFERSON used and carried a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime charged in Count Nine of the Indictment.

If convicted, the defendants face a maximum exposure of 20 years imprisonment and a fine of \$1,000,000 each on Counts One through Nine of the Indictment; and a mandatory term of five years imprisonment consecutive to any drug sentence on Count Ten of the Indictment.

The case will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Zelda E. Wesley. The case was investigated by the West Virginia State Police and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives.

It should be noted that the charges contained in the Indictment are merely accusations and not evidence of guilt, and that each defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.